

NOTES AND NEWS.

GRAF HANS VON BERLEPSCH, an Honorary Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, died on February 27, 1915, in the sixty-fourth year of his age. He was one of the original Corresponding Members of the A. O. U. and was elected to Honorary Fellowship in 1890. He was one of the leading authorities on the birds of South America and had published many papers on the subject. Of late years he made a special study of attracting wild birds and had devised various styles of bird nesting boxes as well as methods of pruning trees and shrubs to encourage nest building in them. His estates in Germany where his ideas were put to practical tests were veritable bird sanctuaries. His loss will be widely felt in ornithological circles both among the museum systematists and the great host who are interested in the preservation of wild bird life.

DR. OTTO HERMAN, a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, died in Budapest, Hungary, on December 27, 1914, in the eightieth year of his age. He was born in Breznóbánya, June 27, 1835. His parents came from Zips, his father, Karl Herman, being a lying in surgeon in moderate circumstances. The surroundings of his home were extremely favorable to the development of the young, growing naturalist and all nature soon strongly impressed him. His father was a classmate of Johann Salamon Petényi, at that time the leader in Hungarian ornithology, and encouraged his son in all his juvenile expeditions, during which period young Herman made a collection of birds, preparing all the skins himself.

There being little money in natural science, his father became much concerned as to what to do with him as the time approached for his self-support, and finally sent him to the Polytechnic school in Vienna where he graduated and took a position as a factory draughtsman. Uncongenial as the life was he determined to win, and displayed the iron will, quick perception and faith in himself which were ever characteristic of him. Misfortunes, however, overtook him; first his father's death, then the discovery that he had been out of his country without permission, for which the government compelled him to serve twelve years in the army. Think of a nature like his being subjected to the iron ruling of military discipline!

It was but another instance of the square peg in the round hole, or, as a distinguished American ornithologist once put it: "To make a square peg fit in a round hole is impossible. One of two things must happen. Either the peg wears round, and sinks into the hole at last, or, if it stays square, works loose, and is gone. Nothing but friction in either case."¹

After the war between Poland and Russia in 1863, when Herman had volunteered as a soldier in the army of the former, he made application for the vacant position of taxidermist in the Museum of Siebenbürgen. Having

¹ The Medical Record, September 29, 1883, p. 343.

secured this position he was rapidly carried up the ladder of fame. With marked energy he helped to build up the zoölogical collections of the museum; wrote his first paper on ornithology, and diligently studied every phase of nature as it was brought to his attention. Later he became deeply interested in politics and was a member of the Hungarian Parliament, where he was instrumental in having laws passed which greatly advanced scientific research in Hungary. In 1877, he founded the official organ of the Hungarian Museum of Natural History and was its editor for ten years. The second International Ornithological Congress at Budapest was almost entirely under his management and its notable success was due to his powers of organization and capacity for work. The establishment of the Royal Hungarian Central Bureau for Ornithology was another conception of Herman's which was realized largely through his enterprise and 'Aquila', its official organ, was brought into existence and conducted by him through twenty large volumes.

His extensive investigations on bird migration are well known throughout the world.

While it is through his numerous ornithological works that he is probably best known, he made many valuable and often extensive contributions to entomology, ethnography, politics, political economy, folk-lore and Hungarian historical sketches. Among these may be mentioned a notable classic in three volumes on the spiders of Hungary and works on the Hungarian fisher-folk and Hungarian fisheries. Otto Herman was a man of great breadth of mind, enormous energy and an untiring worker. In his death not only did Hungary lose one of its most illustrious scientists, but the world lost a man who, through his own efforts, powerfully advanced the cause of science and human civilization, and who stood for all that was noble and great in his every undertaking.¹ — R. W. SHUFELDT.

EGBERT BAGG, a Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, died July 11, 1915, at his home in Utica, N. Y. He was one of the original Associates of the Union, elected in 1883, and became a Member in 1914. Mr. Bagg was born in Utica, August 10, 1850, son of Egbert Bagg and Cornelia Hunt, and was educated in the Utica public schools, Hobart College and Cornell University. He was a successful business man and interested in the civic affairs of his native city, serving as school commissioner for some years. He was an active member of the Oneida Historical Society and other literary organizations. Among his ornithological publications were 'The Birds of Oneida County, N. Y.,' 1894, and numerous notes on rare or interesting species which came under his observation.

EWEN SOMERLED CAMERON, a Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, and a frequent contributor to 'The Auk' died at the Southern

¹ In preparing this sketch I have employed data drawn from my numerous letters from Dr. Herman, and also the obituary notices by Lambrecht (Ornith. Monatsb. XL, pp. 138-142) and Stefan (Aquila XXI, 1914), for translating which I am indebted to my wife. The portrait is reproduced from another notice by Lambrecht (Bartlangkutatas, 1915, III., Heft. 1).

California Sanitarium, Lamanda Park, Pasadena, California, on May 25, 1915. His death was caused by an abscess on the brain, the result of two accidents when horses fell with him. He had been dangerously ill for four months. Mr. Cameron was born December 19, 1854, and was the son of Allan Gordon Cameron of Barcaldene Ledaig, Argyllshire, Scotland; but for many years he has resided at Marsh, Dawson Co., Montana.

All of his spare time was devoted to ornithology which had been his favorite study from boyhood. He published 'The Birds of Custer and Dawson Counties, Montana,' in 'The Auk,' for 1907 and 1908, and a number of admirable detailed studies of characteristic species of that region, which were enhanced by the photographic illustrations contributed by his wife, who had a keen sympathetic interest in his ornithological work. Mr. Cameron also contributed to 'The Ibis,' 'Country Life' and 'The Field.' He was elected a Member of the British Ornithologists' Union in 1889, an Associate of the A. O. U. in 1903, and a Member in 1910, and a Fellow of the Zoological Society of London in 1888.

PROF. FREDERICK WARD PUTNAM, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, died on August 14, 1915, in the seventy-seventh year of his age. Prof. Putnam was famous as an archæologist and ethnologist, being professor of American archæology and ethnology at Harvard University, Curator of the Peabody Museum of Archæology and Ethnology and author of many papers upon Archæological subjects. His interests extended beyond the field of his specialty and in early life he was active in several branches of zoölogy. In 1876-8 he was in charge of the Agassiz collection of fishes at the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, and was one of the founders and editors of the 'American Naturalist.' His principal contribution to ornithology was a 'Catalogue of the Birds of Essex Co., Mass.,' published in 1856, which is virtually a list of the birds of the State. Prof. Putnam was born in Salem, Mass., April 16, 1839.

FRANK B. ARMSTRONG, of Brownsville, Texas, well known throughout this country and Europe as a collector and taxidermist, died at his home, on August 20, 1915, in the fifty-third year of his age. He was a native of St. John, N. B., of English parentage and was born on May 10, 1863. He was raised and educated in Medford, Mass., whither his parents had moved, and after graduating from the public schools he studied taxidermy in Boston under C. J. Maynard. About 1885, he travelled to Laredo, Texas, and collected extensively in that vicinity and in Mexico until 1890, when he moved to Brownsville. He was a skillful taxidermist and made excellent bird skins, and specimens bearing his name are to be found in all the large collections in America.

DR. THOMAS S. ROBERTS had been appointed Associate Curator of the Zoölogical Museum and Professor of Ornithology in the University of Minnesota and expects shortly to devote his entire time to this work. His address will be Room 209, Millard Hall, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn.